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CROP NEWS AND VIEWS

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FALL SEEDED GRAINS

When wheat yields are thirty to forty-five bushels per acre and test weights are high there isn't much interest in new or improved varieties. But along comes a season of twelve or fifteen bushel averages or poor quality and a lot of farmers are anxious to change and try something that might be better.

There are quite a number of good soft red winter wheats suited to this section of the United States, some of which are gradually passing out of the picture with newer ones coming along to take their place.

THORNE. At the present time Thorne is the most popular and widely used variety. It is a red chaffed high yielder, the stiffest strawed variety available, medium in height, and has good milling qualities.

No doubt some of its popularity comes from its yielding ability but most can be attributed to its resistance to straw breaking even when dead ripe and its combining qualities. It is resistant to loose smut but rather susceptible to scab and when injury is severe test weight and quality suffer.

At present Thorne is recommended as first choice for most of Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New Jersey, Kentucky, parts of Virginia and at least second choice in a number of other neighboring states.

TRUMBULL. For many years this has been one of the important varieties. It is white chaffed, has excellent milling qualities, is almost immune to loose smut and not affected to any extent by scab.

Trumbull is not as stiff strawed as Thorne but average yields are within two or three bushels of Thorne and frequently the quality is better. Trumbull is high in test weight and a very consistent performer.

FAIRFIELD. A white chaffed variety developed in Indiana and popular in that state because of its yielding ability and winter hardiness. It compares to Trumbull in straw stiffness, is resistant to loose smut, and has yielded with Thorne in northern areas. As it, too, is susceptible to scab it is not recommended for southern Indiana and Ohio where scab injury is more severe.

VIGO. A new Indiana white chaffed variety with superior test weight and excellent baking qualities. It is resistant to loose smut and particularly leaf rust, is close to Thorne in stiffness of straw, more winter hardy, and in most localities has yielded as well as the best soft red varieties. Because of its high test weight, quality and winter hardiness this variety is expected to become popular rapidly.

NURED. A good soft red winter wheat used in New York and adjoin-

ing states. It is very winter hardy, resistant to loose smut and a high yielder. It has only moderate stiffness of straw and is not as popular as the white pastry flour types of wheat for New York State.

BEARDED VARIETIES

Generally bearded wheats have been less subject to scab injury than the smooth types. They may be more susceptible to some of the other diseases but farmers often feel that they suffer less winter injury than smooth wheat and are more consistent in test weight.

BUTLER. A new Ohio variety with very limited acreage this year, but there should be plenty of seed available in 1949. It has averaged slightly higher than Thorne in yield, is equal in strength of straw, and has good resistance to scab and loose smut.

This variety will probably replace Thorne where scab injury has been severe and beardiness is not objectionable.

GOENS, GLADDEN, NIGGER are old varieties that are in demand in rather small areas. Goens shatters rather easily, Gladden and Nigger are quite winter hardy, and all have been good yielders of high quality grain. They are medium in straw stiffness and no doubt will be replaced by Butler in many localities as soon as seed is available.

There are a number of other good soft red winter wheats as Fulhio, Poole, Nittany or Penn 44, Leap's Prolific and white varieties as Cornell 595, Yorkwin and Gold Coin. However, these are either for special flours as the white kinds or are generally being replaced by higher yielding, more disease resistant or stiffer strawed varieties.

Generally hard red winter wheats as Pawnee are not recommended for the

soft red winter areas. Yields are usually lower, lodging is often severe, and the quality is not as good as when produced in the hard wheat territory. As soft wheats are in particular demand for important baking products, mixture with the other types of wheat is undesirable.

Recommendations

Seed. Should be well cleaned, sound, plump and have strong germination. It pays to treat all wheat used for seed for protection against stinking smut, seedling root rots and other diseases.

Sowing. Eight pecks per acre has given the highest average yields; however, six pecks is usually enough on productive soils or where high fertilization has been followed. Over a period of years seeding on or immediately following the "fly free date" has meant higher yields than sowing earlier or later.

Fertilization. Wheat yields are increased and also yields of succeeding crops if fertilizer is used. Recommendations depend on soil productivity and what crops are to follow. Generally 300-500 lbs. of 0-20-10, 3-12-12 or 0-12-12 analysis are suggested.

Winter Injury. Most damage is caused on poorly drained soils or wet spots where heaving occurs. Alternate freezing and thawing forces the young plants out of the ground after which winds dry them out and cause winter killing. Top dressing in early winter with 4 or 5 tons of strawy manure or with one or two tons of straw will reduce heaving injury. Conditions are also much more favorable for a good stand of spring seeded legumes and grasses.

Harvesting. Binder harvest may be started any time after the moisture content of the grain is 40% or less. Usually about five days before the dead

ripe stage. For safe storage when combining, the moisture content should be under 14% or artificial drying may be necessary. The drier the grain when binned the less the damage from heating, weevil injury or storage troubles.

WINTER BARLEY

Winter barley is much more subject to winter killing than is wheat. For this reason it is recommended only where winters are less severe or with a warning of the risk being taken when seeded elsewhere.

The southeastern counties of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, parts of New York, southern Ohio and Indiana, Kentucky and the lower elevations of West Virginia usually have weather conditions mild enough for good barley yields.

KENTUCKY NO. 1. This rough bearded barley is a good yielder and is as winter hardy as any that are available. It is rather weak strawed and lodging usually occurs on good soils.

OHIO NO. 1. This is also a bearded variety, closely related to Kentucky No. 1 and under Ohio conditions has given slightly higher yields.

WONG is considered a beardless variety but does have some short, stiff beards. It has a compact head, is much stiffer strawed than other kinds, is resistant to barley mildew and has been a top yielder.

Although not quite as cold resistant as several of the rough bearded kind, it is generally recommended as first choice in New York, New Jersey, southeastern Pennsylvania, parts of Virginia, and is being grown successfully in West Virginia, Ohio and Indiana.

A few others as Calhoun, Tennessee Winter, Maryland Smooth Awn, and Missouri Beardless are recommended in limited areas. Local strains that may

have some extra winter hardiness are also suggested.

Recommendations

Winter barley should be seeded ten days to two weeks ahead of wheat seeding. This gives more chance for satisfactory growth before cold weather. Six pecks to two bushels per acre is the usual rate of seeding when a drill is used or an additional half-bushel per acre if broadcast.

Barley is more sensitive to soil acidity than wheat so a soil suited to good stands of red clover or alfalfa is best. Also soils above average fertility are necessary for top yields. Barley is affected by about the same disease as wheat with treating being essential to control smut, seedling rots and scab carried on the seed.

It should be kept in mind that winter hardiness is the limiting factor in consistently good production. Conditions that cause winter injury to wheat will cause more serious injury to winter barley. Early planting, liberal use of fertilizer, top dressing and good snow cover favor winter survival.

WINTER OATS

The risk of sowing winter oats is so great that it is suggested for use only in limited areas where winters are less severe.

Ohio and New York State do not recommend it while Cumberland County, New Jersey, southeastern Pennsylvania, around Huntington, West Virginia, and in southern Indiana crops have been satisfactory. In Virginia several different varieties are being grown successfully.

WINTOK is the most winter hardy variety with Lee, Pioneer, Stanton, Forkeddeer and a few others also being used. Tennessee has done much to improve varieties in straw stiffness and

winter hardiness but it is well to remember that wheat, rye and barley are less risky and more nearly suited to the wheat growing states.

Seeding is made at two bushels per acre about three or four weeks ahead of wheat so that a good growth is made before cold weather. Where winter oats can be grown they furnish a good cover crop and mature earlier than spring sown kinds.

RYE

There are two types or leading varieties of rye: Rosen, mostly produced in northern states as Michigan, and Balbo with greatest production in Kentucky and the southern parts of Indiana and Ohio. Pure strains have well filled, plump heads and are uniform in appearance, while common rye shows a lot of variations.

Rye is an open pollinated plant differing from wheat and most of the other cereals. It is easily mixed by cross pollination so that pure rye of superior quality is usually in limited supply.

ROSEN is more cold resistant than Balbo and better adapted to northern climates. It is a higher producer of grain under these conditions or can be used for winter cover or pasture.

BALBO is used primarily for winter cover crop purposes. It is more leafy, grows more rapidly and is a heavier yielder for fall and spring pasture. It is favored for dairy cattle pasture as less objectionable flavor is added to the milk. Reports indicate that Balbo loses much of the growth advantage as it moves into northern Ohio.

Rye is more winter hardy than wheat and can be sown earlier or later than wheat. Frequently it is seeded at the last cultivation of corn or in early fall

for winter cover and green manure plow-under in the spring. The normal seeding rate is about 1½ bushels per acre although some seed a little heavier.

Since rye isn't affected by smut or most seedling diseases as are other grains, treating of seed has not been recommended. Rye is adapted to a wide range of soil and weather conditions, but good soils and proper seeding will result in better yields of both pasture and grain.

SMUT CONTROL

"All the smuts of wheat, oats and barley, with the exceptions of loose smut of wheat and barley, can ordinarily be controlled by dust treatment of the seed. New Improved Ceresan at the rate of one-half ounce per bushel of seed is recommended for the dust treatment. This treatment will also control barley stripe and most other seed borne diseases, and it serves to protect seed and young seedlings from soil-borne organisms that cause decay and seedling blights."

"In the case of the loose smuts of wheat and barley the infection is carried within the seed, and these smuts can be controlled only by the hot water treatment."

"If the seed used each year is dust treated it should be only necessary to treat in hot water to control the loose smuts about every three years."

"For further information concerning these seed treatment methods, consult your County Agent."—The Kentucky Seed Improvement Association.

"Mr. Louis Bromfield (Malabar Farm) advises me he purchased his Brome Grass and Ladino clover seed from you. Please quote your best price on 250 lbs. Ladino and 500 lbs. of Brome. We realize this is a long distance to ship seed, but we are interested in getting the best quality."—DOOLEY DAWSON, Crockett, Texas.